

BUILDING OUR LIBRARY OF TOMORROW

MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

advocate

Winter 2007

from the president

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

After reading David McCullough's book, *The Great Bridge*, I was inspired to return to the city of my birth, Brooklyn, NY. This book by Mr. McCullough further moved me to walk across this great span. Built in the 1870's, it accommodated 400,000 commuters going from Brooklyn to Manhattan daily. Folks had talked about a bridge for as long as anyone could remember.

People knew it was needed, however, this great bridge was not universally accepted. People did not want to pay for it and felt the old ferries were good enough. But, on stormy days the old ferries were unreliable. Then along came Washington Roebling, an industrialist who believed. The concepts, drawings, materials, plans, funding, and commitment began by him; were completed and made to happen by his son, John.

I have actually thought of calling the Marlborough Public Library Foundation the Roebling Committee because we believe and we are committed. We believe Marlborough needs a new library and we are committed to making it happen.

In 1954 after Roger Bannister did the impossible by running a four minute mile, an interesting phenomenon began to happen. (You see, it was scientifically explained that man just could not run a mile in four minutes.) In the year that followed, approximately 30 runners completed a mile run in four minutes! (Impossible !)

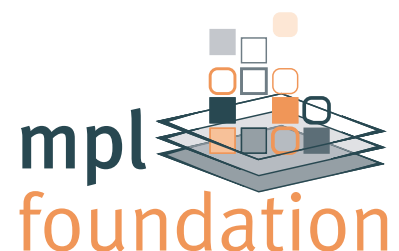
We have been told a new library would be impossible. Here is a list of some communities, which in the past 5 years may have felt the same way: Ashby, Blackstone, Bolton, Boxboro, Charlton, Dracut, Gardner, Harvard, Leominster, Lunenburg, Maynard, Northboro, North Brookfield, and Watertown.

These communities received total funding from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts of \$30,684,000 toward project costs of \$118 million. When you build or expand a library, three financial components are necessary. First is the city, second is the state, and the third piece is the private funding which is what our foundation is about.

Consider a donation; now or in the near future. Honor a friend or a loved one who has everything. Donate in memory of someone you have lost or simply remember the foundation in your will. Years from now, you will have made a difference!

Mr. Roebling's beliefs made a difference. The Bridge is so great, it's been sold and re-sold many, many times. In fact, I have actually sold it a few times myself.

Daniel Verrico, President
Marlborough Public Library
Foundation



how do we make our dream of a new library a reality?

As you know from our first two issues, the primary goal of the Marlborough Public Library Foundation (MPLF) is to build a new library that can appropriately accommodate collection and staff sizes that are sufficient to support Marlborough’s large and growing population.

The MPLF has begun to pave the way for this to happen. However, it is only with the help of the caring citizens of Marlborough that this dream can ever become a reality.

When we talk about building a new facility, the obvious need is money. We would need to rely on State and City funding, along with private donations. That’s part of where your help is needed.

However, you can do other things beside donate money. You can help us get our cause talked about on a wider basis and help generate community interest in the project. What can you do? You can talk to your neighbors and friends, the people you work with, and the City government to let them know how important the library is and what it means to you. It is only through grass roots action that this project can really take off with the support that it needs to be successful, and you, our friends, are the “roots” of this community.

Why do we need a new library? Our existing building, although beautiful and historically important, simply isn’t large enough to support the population we now have in Marlborough. According to the latest available data (FY2005) from the Massachusetts

Board of Library Commissioners Web site, Marlborough had a population of 37,699. Our library size is 22,300 square feet. Compare that to Gardner, MA, a local community about 45 minutes to the northwest of Marlborough. As of the 2000 census, Gardner’s population was 20,770, which is 15,485 fewer people than Marlborough’s. In the late fall of 2004, a new library facility of 32,000 square feet was dedicated in Gardner.

Marlborough’s library surpasses Gardner’s in several areas as shown in the table below. Doesn’t it seem logical, then, that we should have a newer, larger, library that meets our needs?

It is only through grass roots action that [we will build a new library] and you, our friends, are the roots of this community.

CATEGORY	MARLBOROUGH	GARDNER	MARLBOROUGH SURPASSES GARDNER BY:
Collection size of books and serial volumes	115,819	100,182	15,637
Number of audio materials	5,613	2,113	3,500
Number of video materials	6,183	2,307	3,876
Number of current serial subscriptions	300	125	175
Total annual circulation	214,190	112,002	102,188
Number of full-time staff (FTE)	18	11	7
Total annual attendance at all programs intended primarily for children (includes adults who attend).	4,895	2,390	2,505
Internet terminals used by the general public	10	6	4

Source: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners website (FY2005).



Gardner's new Levi Heywood Memorial Library.

We need your help! Volunteer some time.

The MPL Foundation needs your help. Of course, we consider financial contributions to be of great assistance, but we also need help from you to make the new library a reality. We will be focusing on a fund raising plan soon and we would like to have people with fund raising experience become part of our committee.

But wait, we won't stop at that. If you have any experience that you think might be helpful to the foundation (such as writing articles for this newsletter), we would love to have your help.

Please contact Dan Verrico, 508-460-0656 or jananddan@comcast.net, if you are interested or if you know of someone who might fit the bill.

point of view

"With the expanding population and new ethnic populations, you need to accommodate the natural increase in use of the library that people now expect to be a part of their lives. For those who don't have the resources, the library is a good balance to help level the opportunities."

— *Library patron*

"I would like to be able to listen to my books on tape within the library. I was very surprised to find that you do not have a listening room here at the Marlborough library!! If it is at all possible, could you PLEASE check into setting up a room here, where I and fellow listeners could enjoy the peace and quiet of the library while enjoying our favorite stories on tape!!"

— *Two young adult Library patrons*

"How wonderful it is to come in here day after day. It has become a warm place that a person is welcomed in, and made to not feel out of place, or a stranger. This has had the result of making this library a home away from home."

— *Library patron from nearby shelter*

WHY I JOINED THE FOUNDATION

"Growing up, the public library was always my favorite place to go because of my infatuation with reading. When my husband, Steve and I moved to Marlborough five years ago, one of the first things we did was to sign up for our library cards. When I learned of the opportunity to help make Marlborough's public library one that would better serve the people of this community, I couldn't resist getting involved."

— *Lisa Szramiak*

"I was asked to join the Foundation because the members thought I would be able to make a valuable contribution due to my experience with community service. Although I live in Hudson, I have always worked more in Marlborough and feel like a part of this community because of my long connection to it. I believe in this Foundation and its goals and I would really like to see this project come to life."

— *Maria Bentley*

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

The Marlborough Public Library and affiliated groups, such as the Friends of the Library, work to provide the community the chance to take part in the regular activities and events that are sponsored throughout the year.

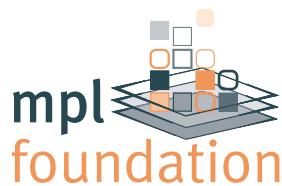
Activities for children are provided for toddlers and kids through age 12 and include Pea Pod Story Time, String Bean Story Time, the Amazing Friends Book Club, the Book Break and arts programs for small children up to age 12, among others.

The Friends of the Library sponsor arts programs for members of the community, which include art exhibitions, author lectures and concerts.

For the calendar of events, check out the library's Web site, www.marlbrough-ma.gov/gen/MarlboroughMA_PubLibrary/index.

MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Building our Library of Tomorrow



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how can you help?

THE MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION DEPENDS ON CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUSTAIN AND BUILD
OUR LIBRARY OF TOMORROW.

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